

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 IO-14 DRC-01 CU-05 EB-11 FRB-03

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R 061030Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8364

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, EAID, CD

SUBJ: TRIBAL INITIATIONS: YONDOH II CONTINUED

REF: NDJAMENA 1871

1. SINCE EARLY JULY SECOND WAVE OF YONDOH OR TRIBAL INITIATIONS HAVE BEEN UNDER WAY IN THE MOUNDOU AND DOBA REGIONS OF SOUTHERN CHAD. BOTH THESE AND INITIATIONS LAST FALL IN AREAS OF SARH AND KOUMRA ARE DIRECT RESULT OF AUTHENTICITY CAMPAIGN INAUGURATED AUGUST 1973 ALONG WITH MOUVEMENT NATIONAL POUR LA REVOLUTION CULTURELLE ET SOCIALE (MNRCS). INITIATION LASTS 35 TO 45 DAYS, FOLLOWED BY EQUALLY LONG OR LONGER PERIOD FOR READJUSTMENT.

2. MORE PEOPLE ARE APPARENTLY INVOLVED IN CURRENT INITIATIONS THAN LAST YEAR. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAS NO VERIFIED FIGURES, IT IS ESTIMATED MORE THAN 1500 PEOPLE ARE BEING INITIATED.

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NOT ONLY STUDENTS, BUT CIVIL SERVANTS, PROFESSORS, AND EMPLOYEES

OF LOCAL BUSINESSES AND BANKS HAVE BEEN REQUIRED TO LEAVE THEIR WORK AND FAMILIES, OFTEN ON SHORT NOTICE AND OCCASIONALLY DURING THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, TO PARTICIPATE IN ORDEAL. MORE WEALTHY INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PAY FOR THEIR TRANSPORT BY AIR TO INITIATION SITES IN THE SOUTH RATHER THAN BEING HERDED INTO OPEN TRUCKS FOR TRIP.

3. ONE LOCAL BANK HAS LOST 22 OF ITS 104 EMPLOYEES TO YONDOH AND THE PTT HAS REDUCED ITS SERVICES REPORTEDLY AS RESULT EMPLOYEES GOING TO INITIATIONS. IT HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR EMBASSY TO CONDUCT BUSINESS SINCE MANY RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT DIRECTOR LEVEL AND ABOVE ARE BEING INITIATED. ON DROUGHT MATTERS IN PARTICULAR DIRECTOR OF AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR GRAIN DISTRIBUTION (FDAR) 2-S SELECTED FOR YONDOH WHILE HIS FRENCH COUNSELOR IS ON VACATION IN FRANCE.

4. OTHER NOTABLES REQUIRED TO UNDERGO INITIATION IN ADDITION THOSE MENTIONED REFTEL INCLUDE PRESIDENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL NGANGTAR, PRESIDENT OF LAKE CHAD DEVELOPMENT AGENCY COUMATTEAU, AND CHAIRMAN OF UNIVERSITY ENGLISH DEPARTMENT BOUKAR.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE RUMORS OF DEATHS, THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO CURRENT INITIATIONS WHICH CONTINUE TO REPRESENT HIGHEST PRIORITY POLICY OF PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE. ANTICIPATED OPPOSITION BY LOCAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES HAS YET TO MANIABT ITSELF. IN FACT MORE PEOPLE WERE SCHEDULED FOR INITIATION THAN ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS COULD ACCOMMODATE. AS RESULT SOME PEOPLE WHO WERE EXPECTING TO GO HAVE BEEN TOLD THEIR DEPARTURE WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL A THIRD GROUP IS INITIATED IN NOVEMBER.

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